

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NASSAU 01046 211648Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARAE-00 TRSE-00 SSC-01 EB-07
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W
-----019620 211708Z /46

P R 201851Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1046

HELSINKI FOR AMBASSADOR RIDGEWAY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT BF
SUBJ: ELECTIONS: PLP WINS BIG

REF: NASSAU 1003 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE INCUMBENT PLP WON A LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN YESTERDAY'S
GENERAL ELECTION CAPTURING TWENTY-NINE SEATS OUT OF THIRTY-
EIGHT AND IS PRESENTLY LEADING IN TWO OTHERS. THE OPPOSITION
BDP TOOK FOUR SEATS AND LEADS IN ONE MORE AND THE FNM GAINED
ONE SEAT AND LEADS IN ONE OTHER. NO INDEPENDENT
CANDIDATE CAME CLOSE TO BEING ELECTED AND ONLY ONE SUCCEDED
IN OBTAINING MORE THAN ONE-SIXTH OF THE VOTE IN HIS CON-
STITUENCY AND THEREBY NOT FORFEITING HIS DEPOSIT. THUS THE
PLP HAS BETTERED ITS 1972 VICTORY WHEN IT WON TWENTY-NINE
OF THE THIRTY-EIGHT SEATS AND HAS DONE CONSIDERABLY BETTER
THAN THE PRIME MINISTER'S PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PREDICTIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 01046 211648Z

OF GAINING TWENTY-EIGHT SEATS.

2. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, ISSUES, PER SE, (PLAYED ONLY
A MINOR ROLE IN THE CAMPAIGN AND IN OUR VIEW EXERTED LITTLE
INFLUENCE IN THE VOTING. RATHER THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE
ELECTORATE EXPRESSED THEIR PREFERENCE FOR THE KNOWN RATHER
THAN THE UNKNOWN. THEY CHOSE TO RENEW THE PLP'S MANDATE

BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST AND ONLY POLITICAL PARTY WHICH HAS TOUCHED THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THEM PERSONALLY, AND WHICH DURING ITS TEN YEARS IN POWER HAS DONE SO MUCH TO IMPROVE THEIR OVERALL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STANDING. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THE PLP'S NOT ALWAYS SO SUBTLE USE OF RACE PAID OFF WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE VOTERS NOT ONLY GETTING THE DESIRED MESSAGE FROM THE SCREENING OF "ROOTS" BUT ACCEPTING THE PLP'S ASSERTION THAT BOTH THE BDP AND THE FNM WERE BUT CREATURES OF THE NOW DEFUNCT WHITE CONTROLLED UBP. THEY CHOSE NOT TO GIVE CREDENCE TO THE OPPOSITION'S CHARGES OF CORRUPTION OR IF THEY DID DECIDED THAT WHAT HAD BEEN ACCEPTABLE FOR THE UBP WAS EQUALLY ACCEPTABLE FOR THE PLP. THEY ALSO DECIDED THAT HOWEVER UNSPECIFIC ITS PROPOSALS, THE PLP COULD BEST COPE WITH THE PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION AND DO SO IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD NOT NEGATE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC GAINS ALREADY ACHIEVED. FINALLY WITH A DIVIDED OPPOSITION WHICH DEVOTED AS MUCH OR MORE TIME TO CASTIGATING EACH OTHER AS IT DID THE PLP, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE LATTER WON NOR REALLY SO SURPRISING THAT IT WON BIG.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE OPPOSITION THE FNM PROVED ITSELF UNABLE TO PULL VOTES ON ANY ISLAND WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GRAND BAHAMA WHERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE MORE ACUTE AND WHOSE PLP REPRESENTATION IN THE LAST ASSEMBLY WAS PARTICULARLY INEFFECTIVE. THE FNM LEADER CECIL WALLACE-WHITFIELD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NASSAU 01046 211648Z

IS TRAILING IN HIS BID FOR A SEAT IN ABACO AND THIS SECOND DEFEAT FOR HIM AND THE PARTY HE LED PARALLELS HIS EFFORTS IN THE 1972 ELECTION. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT HE HAS THE INCLINATION FOR ANOTHER TRY AND QUITE PROBABLE THAT THE FNM WHICH WAS TOTALLY HIS OWN CREATION WILL NOT SURVIVE WITHOUT HIM. THE BDP IS THE LAST REMNANT OF THE OLD UBP AND WITH EACH ELECTION IT GROWS SMALLER. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ITS PRESENT LEADERSHIP HAS THE ABILITY OR IMAGINATION TO EXPAND ITS BASE TO ANY CONSIDERABLE EXTENT. INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES OF WHATEVER PERSUASION HAVE AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK OF COUNTERING PARTY MACHINERY AND THE BAHAMIAN VOTER HAS BEEN ONCE AGAIN LEFT WITHOUT A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE PLP IN THE SHORT AND LONG RUN.

4. ALARMISTS ARE ALREADY DECRYING THE LOPSIDED PLP MAJORITY IN THE NEW HOUSE AND PREDICTING THAT WITHOUT THE CHECKS AND BALANCES AND RESTRAINING INFLUENCE OF AN EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION THE PLP HAS BEEN GIVEN A BLANK CHECK TO IMPLEMENT INNUMERABLE AND NEFARIOUS SCHEMES INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF AN INCOME TAX AND JAMAICAN STYLED "SOCIALISM". THIS IS NOT CREDITABLE GIVEN THE RECORD OF THE LAST TEN YEARS

AND THE CASSANDRAS FAIL TO NOTE THAT THE PLP MAJORITY IN THE 1972 ELECTION WAS NOT THAT MUCH SMALLER THAN THIS YEAR'S. WE FORESEE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S ORIENTATION EITHER DOMESTICALLY OR INTERNATIONALLY AND ALTHOUGH THEY WILL BE DEALING WITH US ON BILATERAL ISSUES WITH CONSIDERABLY MORE CONFIDENCE AND PERHAPS TEMPORARY ARROGANCE ON THE PART OF SOME, WE EXPECT NO NEW PROBLEMS.

5. THAT THE ELECTION WAS HELD IN SUCH A SECURE AND PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE - THE FIRST ELECTION IN THE BAHAMAS NOT TO BE MARRED BY VIOLENCE - AND THAT SO MANY BAHAMIANS EXERCISED THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE - THE LOWEST PERCENTAGE OF VOTERS IN ANY CONSTITUENCY WAS 83 PERCENT - SPEAKS WELL FOR THIS YOUNG NATION'S POLITICAL MATURITY AND INCIDENTALLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NASSAU 01046 211648Z

LENDERS CRDENCE TO PRIME MINISTER PINDLING'S ASSERTION DURING THE CAMPAIGN THAT HE AND THE PLP HAVE GIVEN IT "STABILITY AND PEACE" DURING ITS FORMATIVE PERIOD.

6. ON A FINAL NOTE I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO MY MANY COLLEAGUES - CIVILIAN AND MILITARY - SERVING BOTH PERMANENTLY AND TEMPORARILY THROUGHOUT THE BAHAMAS WHOSE DEPORTMENT DURING THIS ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN WAS EXEMPLARY IN EVERY WAY. WITHOUT EXCEPTION THEY MAINTAINED A CONSISTENTLY LOW PROFILE AND THEIR CONDUCT REFLECTS CREDIT ON THE ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH THEY SERVE.
TAYLOR

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, RULING PARTY, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NASSAU01046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770259-1049
Format: TEL
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770738/aaaabgur.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0f1f0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NASSAU 1003
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1804539
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTIONS: PLP WINS BIG
TAGS: PINT, BF, PLP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f1f0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009